

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

UNCLAS USUN 4439

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA PFOR PP

SUBJ: STATUS OF PAPUA

REF: PORT MORESBY 303

1. FOLLOWING ARE VIEWS ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PAPUA, EXPRESSED BY PNG FONMIN KIKI AT TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 16.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM UK DELEGATE, KIKI SAID;

QUOTE ONE OF THE REMAINING TEN CHAPTERS DEALS WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A DISTRICT GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE 20 DISTRICTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA. THAT MEANS WE WOULD HAVE 20 SMALL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT REACHED FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER YET. THE CHAPTER WILL BE DEBATED AT THE COMING SITTING. THE GOVERNMENT POSITION IS THAT IT GOES ALONG WITH THE IDEA. HOWEVER, NEW OPPOSITION HAS RECENTLY ARISEN-FROM FORMER BRITISH NEW GUINEA, NOW PAPUA, WHICH NOW DEMANDS SEPARATE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR PAPUA, STILL WITH PAPUA

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NEW GUINEA. BUT THE OTHER AREAS HAVE ACCEPTED THE IDEA

OF DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS. SO FAR, WE HAVE CREATED TWO-ONE IN BOUGAINVILLE AND THE OTHER IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, WHICH IS PART OF PAPUA. UNQUOTE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM AMBASSADOR WHITE ON SAME SUBJECT, KIKI SAID; QUOTE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT WE HAVE DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS. ACTUALLY WE HAVE 20 DISTRICTS ALTOGETHER. THE IDEA IS THAT IF THEY HAVE THEIR OWN DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS IT WILL MAKE THEM FEEL THAT THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN REGION. WE HAVE REGIONAL TIES, WE HAVE TRIBAL TIES, AND ALL THESE ARE VERY STRONG. SO WE SAY, "ALL RIGHT, FELLOWS, IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY WE WILL GIVE YOU THIS RESPONSIBILITY. WE WILL GIVE YOU MONEY, IF YOU WANT A ROAD TO BE BUILT, IT IS YOUR BUSINESS. IF YOU WANT A BRIDGE TO BE BUILT, IT IS YOUR BUSINESS. YOU DECIDE WHERE YOU WANT MONEY TO BE SPENT." SO THE POWER OF SPENDING MONEY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS, AND IT WILL BE UP TO THEM. HOWEVER, THIS HAS NOT BEEN DEBATED YET. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER WE SHALL FOLLOW THAT LINE, THE DISTRICT LINE, BECAUSE IN THE SOUTH, IN THE FORMER BRITISH COLONY WHICH IS NOW PAPUA, AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY, THEY HAVE JUST RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HAVE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT, THEY WANT TO HAVE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. UNQUOTE.
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